

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01950 030202Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 /082 W
-----003784 030540Z /13

R 030049Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 169
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1950

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SREF, SN, CE, VM, TH, CH
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH VIETNAMESE, PRC-THAI
AFFAIRS AND HELP FOR SRI LANKA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM COMMENTED ON VARIOUS RECENT
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN COURSE OF AN INFORMAL DINNER HOSTED
BY AMBASSADOR APRIL 30 IN HONOR OF VISITING AMBASSADOR MILLER
FROM KUALA LUMPUR.

2. ON VIETNAM, FOREIGN MINISTER OBSERVED THAT HANOI WAS MOST
ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE BUT THAT "WE
WILL GAIN NOTHING BY IT". BECAUSE OF THIS, HANOI HAS HAD TO
REACT MILDLY TO SUCH EMBARRASSING INCIDENTS AS RECENT DEFECTION
OF TWO VIETNAMESE IN STOLEN VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE C-47. MOST
HELPFUL TO GOS IN THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT WAS THAT
"AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE WAS ABLE TO GET THEM (THE DEFECTING
VIETNAMESE) OUT OF THE COUNTRY SO QUICKLY" BEFORE HANOI COULD
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REACT. AFTER SINGAPORE HAD PERMITTED SRV TO SEND CREW TO
SINGAPORE TO FERRY STOLEN PLANE BACK HOME, RAJA SAID,
"THEY EVEN SENT US A LETTER THANKING US".

3. RECALLING THAI FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT'S RECENT
TRIP TO SINGAPORE AND OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS TO BRIEF
LEADERS ON KRIANGSAK'S PEKING VISIT, RAJA SAID THAT

UPADIT HAD INDICATED CHINESE WERE STILL MAKING
DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AND
PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS. AT SAME TIME, THE THAIS
HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT PRC VERY MUCH WANTED IMPROVED
STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. ASKED WHETHER
THE THAIS HAD ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THIS,
RAJA SAID NO, THAT IT WAS JUST THEIR "IMPRESSION".

4. DISCUSSING PRIME MINISTER LEE'S RECENT VISIT TO
SRI LANKA, RAJA COMMENTED THAT SINGAPORE REALLY WANTED
TO HELP THEM. "OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO THOSE CHAPS", HE
SAID. SRI LANKA'S PRIME MINISTER JAYEWARDENE WAS SO
HARD PRESSED BY HIS COUNTRY'S MANIFOLD PROBLEMS, RAJA
SAID, THAT HE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE BRITISH BACK.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, REFUGEES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP01950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0044
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780597/aaaadeqm.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8f2b23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2803023
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH VIETNAMESE, PRC-THAI AFFAIRS AND HELP FOR SRI LANKA
TAGS: PGOV, SREF, SN, CE, VM, TH, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f2b23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014